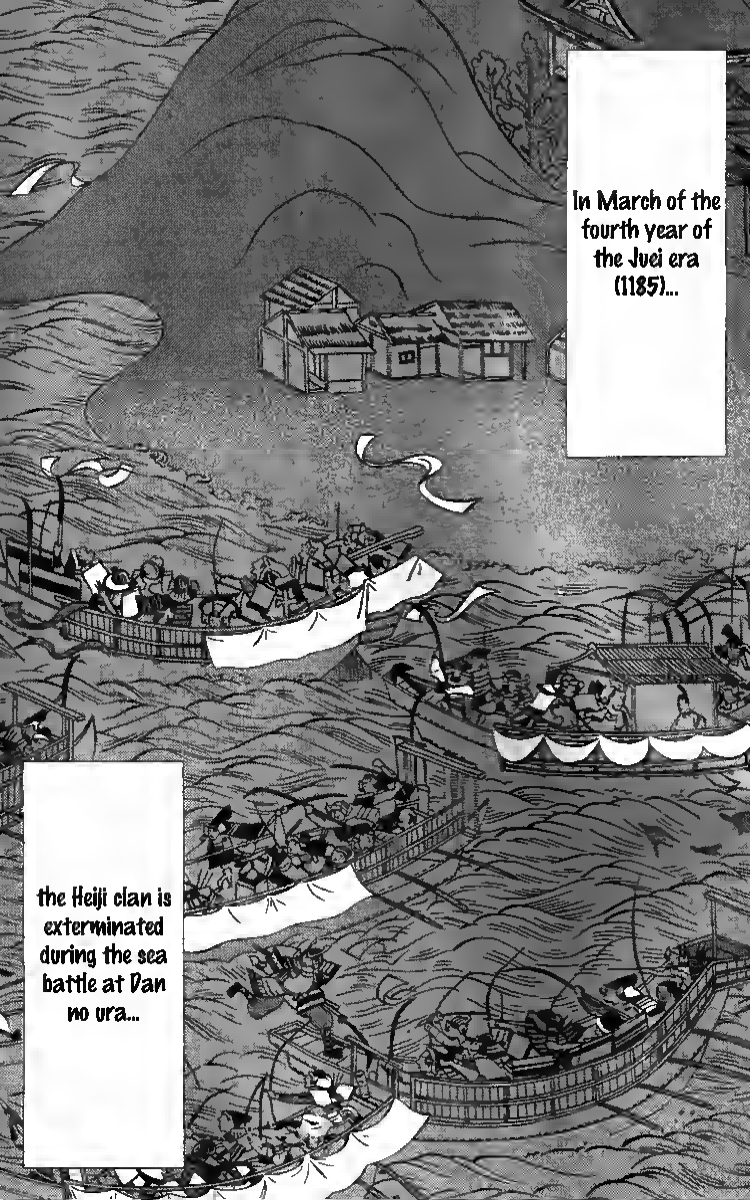

In March of the fourth year of the Juei era (1185)...
the Heiji clan is exterminated during the sea battle at Dan no ura...

THE STORY OF AZAMARU...:

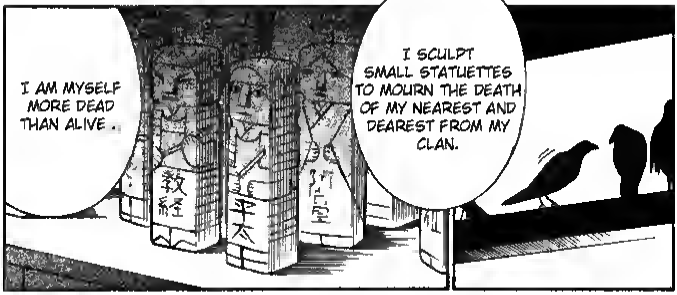
AZAMARU IS A WORK OF FICTION WHOSE MAIN PLOT IS BASED UPON REAL HISTORICAL FACTS: THE WARS OF THE CLANS WHICH TORE APART JAPAN IN THE 12TH CENTURY.
ON ONE SIDE, THE TAIRA (ALSO CALLED "HEIJI") AND ON THE OTHER ONE, THE MINAMOTO (ALSO CALLED "GENJI")....
THE GREAT VICTOR OF THOSE MURDEROUS WARS WERE: THE GENJI/MINAMOTO.
THIS STORY'S HERO, AKUBE, BELONGS TO THE VANQUISHED HEJI CLAN. HE'S EVEN ONE OF THE RARE SURVIVORS...
TOMOE WAS THE PROTEGE OF THE PREVIOUS SHOGUN (COUSIN TO THE MINAMOTO) WHO, AFTER SOME GREAT FAMILY RIVALRY, WAS ALSO KILLED DURING A FIGHT BY ANOTHER MINAMOTO...
THE STORY STARTS SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THE WAR ENDED. TOMOE, QUITE DETERMINED ON TAKING REVENGE, IS LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS OF THE BROKEN-UP CLANS IN ORDER TO RALLY THEM TO HER CAUSE AND RETURN TO BATTLE.

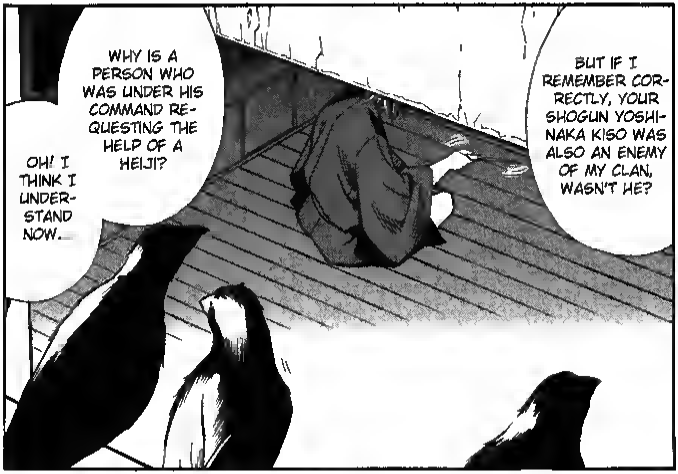
PLEASE, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU. MY NAME IS TOMOE, PREVIOUSLY UNDER THE COMMAND OF SHOGUN YOSHINAKA...
SHOGUN YOSHINAKA KISO WAS KILLED DURING THE BATTLE AGAINST THE MINAMOTO.
Chapter 1: Akube from Himuka Province.

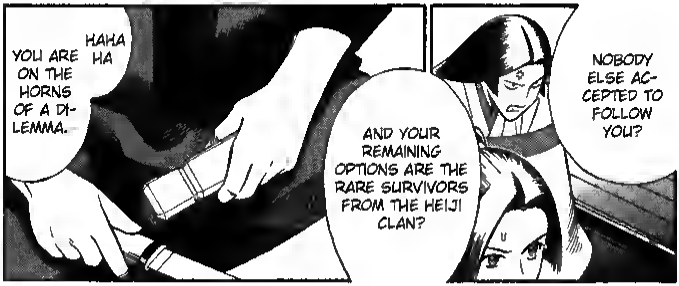
IT'S A SIX-YEAR-OLD HATRED..
WHICH DROVE ME TO MEET YOU..
A RUMOUR ABOUT A SURVIVING DESERTER FROM THE HEIJI CLAN REACHED US. AND I FOUND YOU HERE, IN THIS PROVINCE OF HIMUKA.
MY CLAN WAS ALSO EXTERMINATED BY YORIMOTO NO MINAMOTO..
THAT'S WHY I'M TAKING THE LIBERTY OF ASKING YOU...

...AND TO FIGHT BY OUR SIDE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE REVENGE!
TO WEAR THE ENSIGN OF YOUR FALLEN CLAN ONCE AGAIN...

YOU JOURNEYED VERY FAR FOR NOTHING, MISS TOMOE..
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING THIS PLACE.
YES... DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THIS MASK,
...I USE IT TO COVER THE BURN SCARS ON MY FACE.
I'M AKUBE.
I ONLY GO BY THAT NAME NOW.


I AM MYSELF MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.
I SCULPT SMALL STATUETTES TO MOURN THE DEATH OF MY NEAREST AND DEAREST FROM MY CLAN.


OH! I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
WHY IS A PERSON WHO WAS UNDER HIS COMMAND REQUESTING THE HELP OF A HEIJI?
BUT IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOUR SHOGUN YOSHINAKA KISO WAS ALSO AN ENEMY OF MY CLAN, WASN'T HE?

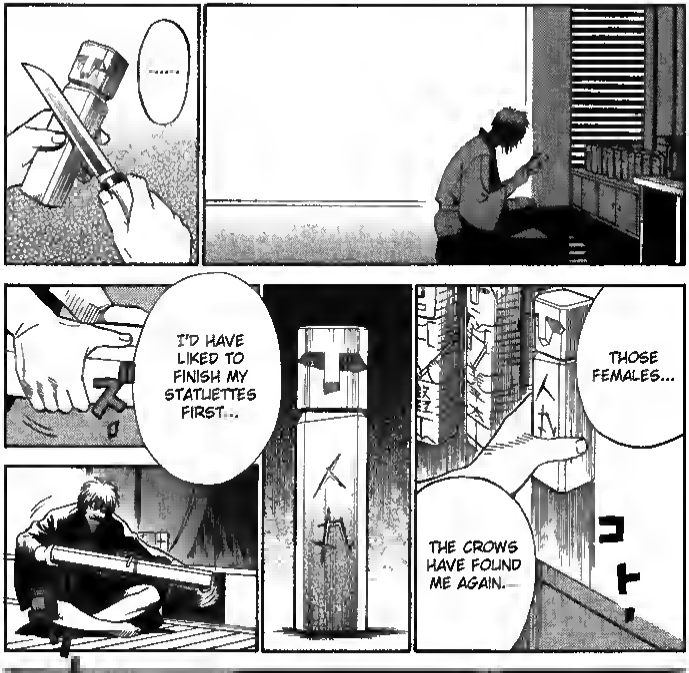

HAHA HA
YOU ARE ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA.
AND YOUR REMAINING OPTIONS ARE THE RARE SURVIVORS FROM THE HEIJI CLAN?
NOBODY ELSE ACCEPTED TO FOLLOW YOU?

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN DEAR NEED FOR COMING ALL THE WAY TO HIMIKA..
I WON'T LET YOU INSULT LADY TOMOE ANY LONGER!
SHE PROSTRATED HERSELF BEFORE YOU AND YOU ARE HUMILIATING HER! YOU DESERVE TO BE DECAPITATED!
IF YOU ARE MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE AS YOU SAY, THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM, WILL IT?

YAMA-BUKI!
YE-
YES?
THE CROWS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU NEVER STOP SCREAMING REPEATEDLY "TOMOE"....
THE BLACK CROWS FOLLOWED YOUR TRAIL?

AKUBE, I RESPECT YOUR DECISION NOT TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE US.
DON'T GO ON. WE KNEW FROM THE START THAT OUR REQUEST WOULD BE IN VAIN...
BUT PLEASE... CONSIDER YOUR ANSWER UNTIL TOMORROW.
WE'LL WAIT TILL THE EARLY HOURS ON THE TOP OF THE CLIFF.
.....

CAW!


.....
I'D HAVE LIKED TO FINISH MY STATUETTES FIRST...
THOSE FEMALES...
THE CROWS HAVE FOUND ME AGAIN.
コト
I CAN ONLY RELY ON THE PROTECTION OF OUR *KAMI-AMATSU NOW.
.....

*KAMI IN JAPANESE MEANS A DEITY, A GOD.

ガ
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ガ
ガン
Ha!
.....
HOW DARE HE BE SO ODIOUS WHEN WE ASKED HIM SO NICELY?
Calm down, Lady Tomoe!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, THIS DESERTER?! AHHHH!
I'M MAD! MAD!
AHHHH!
HE INFURIATES ME!

AKUBE?
I WAS JOKING!
ODS
YUK! IT'S SO UGLY!
AH!
YUK-YUK YUK!
AND BESIDES, WHAT BAD TASTE HE SHOWS WITH THIS MASK!
THE CROWS WEREN'T LYING...
SHE REALLY IS TOMOE...
?

YOSHINAKA IS AWAITING YOU...
TOMOE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
PFF!
YOU ARE FROM THE GENJI CLAN?!

WANT TO TRY IT OUT AGAIN?
OH!

THE MARTIAL ART "KENDO" DOESN'T EXIST YET WHEN THIS STORY UNFOLDS...

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE MUROMACHI PERIOD (1337-1570) FOR THE "WAY OF THE SWORD", KENDO IN JAPANESE, TO BECOME A WAY OF LIFE AND A MEAN FOR SPIRITUAL RISING.

THOUGH, YAMABUKI IS ONE OF MANY WOMEN FROM THIS ERA WHO KNEW HOW TO WIELD WEAPONS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES...

YET THE WAR CEASED MORE THAN 6 YEARS AGO..
I HAD NO IDEA THAT GENJI EMISSARIES WERE STILL WATCHING US..
!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YAMABUKI?
ズズ
ズズズ
!
ズ
ズ
HA!!!

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE!
HIS HEART WAS PIERCED!
!!!
!

I THOUGHT I LOST THE SENSE OF TASTE...
WOMEN NECTAR IS STILL SO SUCCULENT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YAMA-BUKI?

TOMOE, COME NEAR...
MY BODY ISN'T RESPONDING ANYMORE...
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF IT!!!
!?

ゴ
ガラッ
!
NO
AHHHH-HHHH!

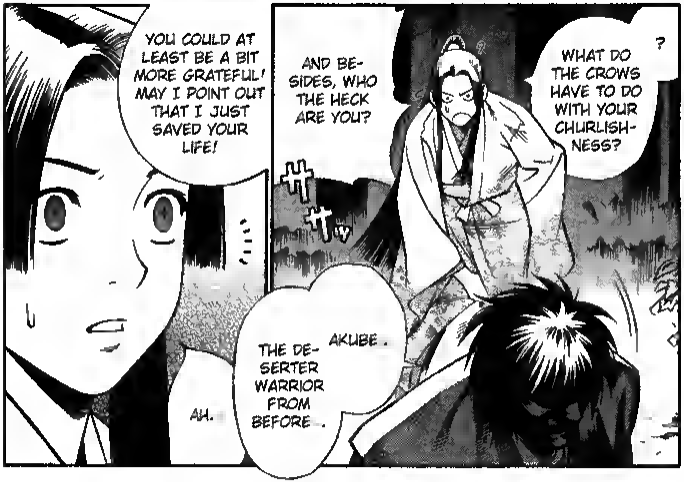
TOMOE!
HE WON'T BE LONG TO COME BACK... HURRY. WE HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!
ARE YOU LISTENING?

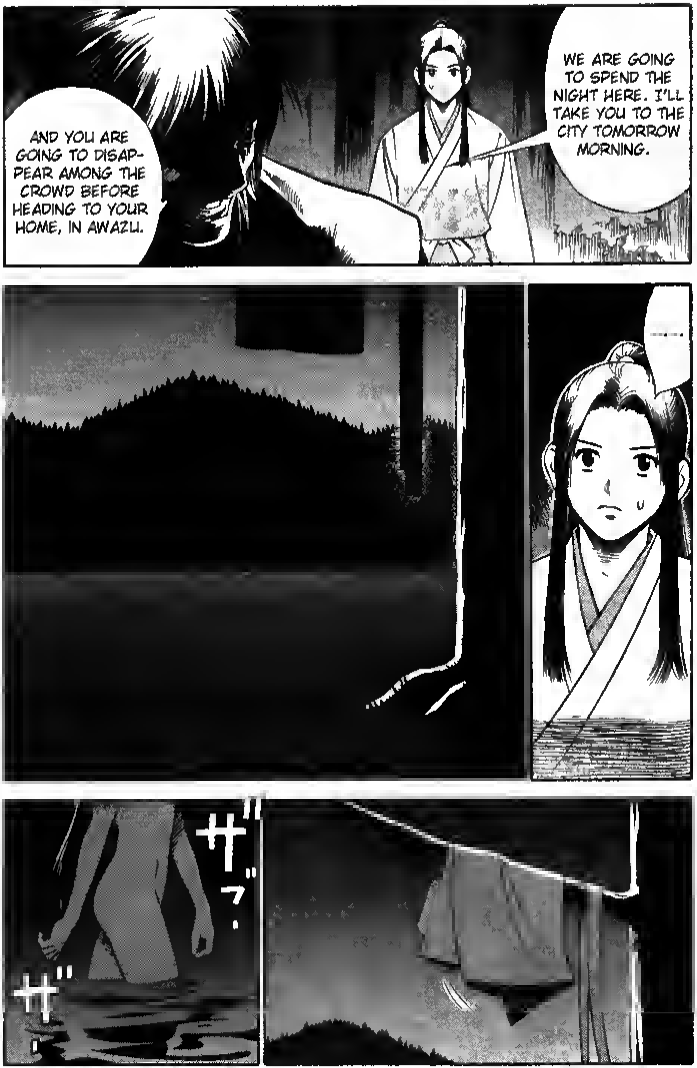
!
I CAN'T STAND UP...
BUT...
WAIT!
LET'S GO!
PFFF

YOU CAN LET GO OF ME!
I'M ABLE TO WALK!
HEY, YOU!
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?
YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE TOLD ME BEFORE DROPPING ME!
OUCH!

ホー
ホー
?
?

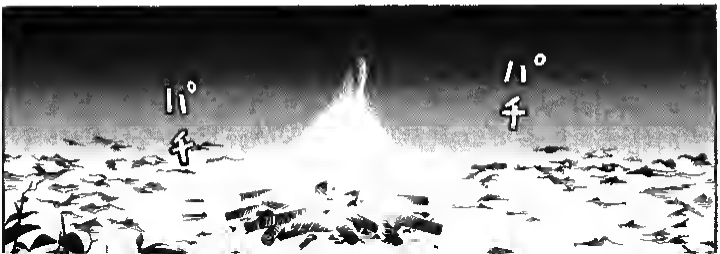
I DON'T THINK HE WILL FOLLOW US HERE...
THE CROWS WON'T BE OF MUCH HELP TO HIM DURING THE NIGHT...


?
WHAT DO THE CROWS HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR CHURLISHNESS?
AND BESIDES, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
YOU COULD AT LEAST BE A BIT MORE GRATEFUL! MAY I POINT OUT THAT I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE!
AKUBE.
THE DESERTER WARRIOR FROM BEFORE...
AH.


WE ARE GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE. I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE CITY TOMORROW MORNING.
AND YOU ARE GOING TO DISAPPEAR AMONG THE CROWD BEFORE HEADING TO YOUR HOME, IN AWAZU.
.....
"H"?
"H"

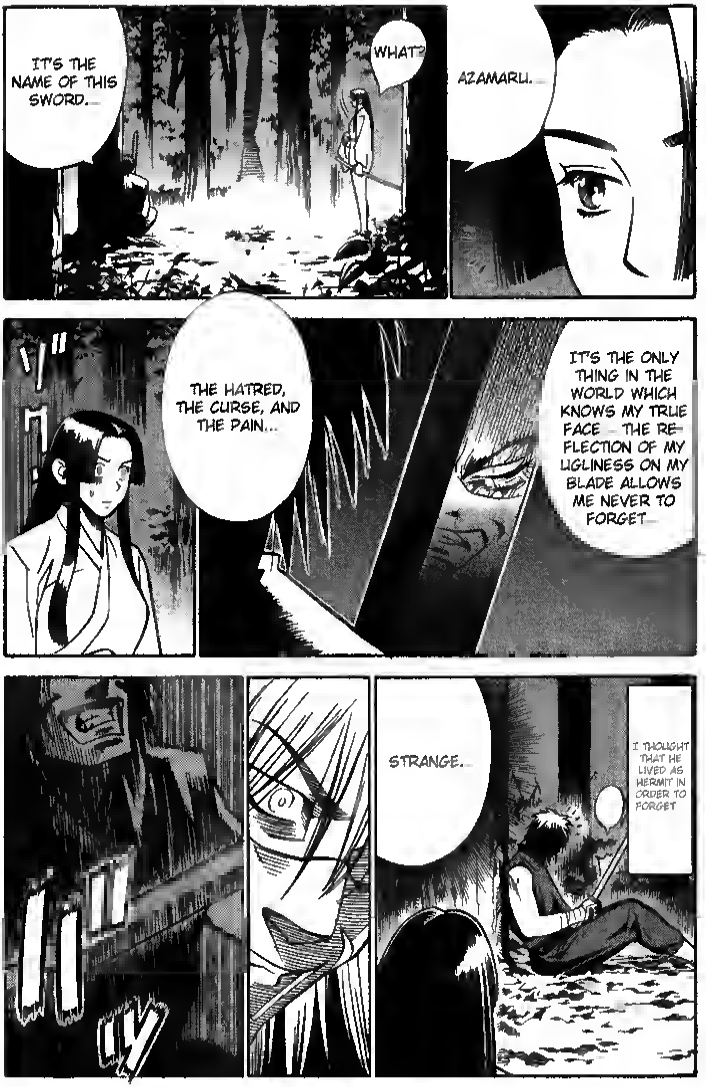
WHY DID HE GO BACK ON HIS DECISION AND DID HE PROTECT ME? HE S STILL VERY BRAVE FOR THE HERMIT HE PRE-TENDS TO BE!
KLEE...
ﾊﾟﾆｬ
THIS MAN DIED TWO YEARS AGO...
I KNOW THIS FACE! BUT...
YAMABUKI...

AH...
YAMA-
BUKI...
MY POOR
YAMABUKI...


ﾊﾟﾁ
ﾊﾟﾁ

チャ
THAT SWORD HAS AN UNUSUAL SHAPE TO IT...
...
DOES IT BEAR A NAME?
AH
HE'S HIDING HIS SCARS...
HMPH...

WHY?
I BROUGHT ON THOSE BURNS ON MYSELF...
WHY?
I'M ABOUT TO TRAIN A MAN FOR BATTLE WHO WANTED TO LIVE FAR AWAY FROM WARS—
AKIRE SURELY DESIRED TO AVOID THE MEN FROM THE GENJI CLAN— FOR THIS HE THREW HIS WEAPONS HIS NAME AND EVEN HIS FACE AWAY—


IT'S THE NAME OF THIS SWORD...
WHAT?
AZAMARU...
THE HATRED, THE CURSE, AND THE PAIN...
IT'S THE ONLY THING IN THE WORLD WHICH KNOWS MY TRUE FACE — THE REFLECTION OF MY UGLINESS ON MY BLADE ALLOWS ME NEVER TO FORGET...
(0)
STRANGE...
I THOUGHT THAT HE LIVED AS HERMIT IN ORDER TO FORGET

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!!!

ズズ
ガッ
ドカ
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE FROM ME THAT EASILY?
BE ADVISED THAT I POSSESS AN INFALLIBLE NOSE...
スー
HOW IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE!?!
IT'S REALLY HIM! HE'S ALIVE! MUSASHIBO BENKEI!
...!

PLEASE... LEND ME A BIT...
YAMA-BUKI!
ESPECIALLY FROM FEMALES... GYAHAHA!!
I LOVE THE SMELL OF URINE...
ズン
ズン
ドン
...OF YOUR COUR-AGE!!!
YAAAAAAAA!!!

YAMA-BUKI, YOSHI-NAKA...
IT'S MY TURN TO JOIN YOU IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD...
HEY, SNOT! DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU HURT ME?
...!!!
THAT'S THE END...
IT'S TICK-LING ME...

GOUAAA AAAH!!!
RHAAAA AAA!!!!
ビキ
!!!
EH?
WHAT UNBEARABLE PAIN!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE!
THIS SWORD... IT MEANS... YOU ARE...

SO THIS WEAPON IS...
YO, I ARE KAGEKIYO FROM THE TAIRA CLAN!
I'M AKUBE AND MY SWORD IS NAMED AZAMARU...
THAT'S THE ONLY THING IN THE WORLD WHICH

AAAAAAA!
...KNOWS MY TRUE FACE!!!
GUAAA!
AAA!!!
AAA!!!
ドサッ

!
KAGE-KIYO!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL NEVER FORGET...
THAT PAIN!
.....
...
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!
PFFF...
HE'S DOING VERY WELL...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH HUMANS...
YOU JUST HAD THE TRUE FACE OF THE GENJI IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES...
THEY ARE IMMORTAL DEMONS...
AND THEY ARE TOO STURDY FOR SIMPLE WARRIORS...
YOU'D BETTER GO HOME...
AND QUICKLY...
YES...

September 1191... one year before the establishment of the "Bakufu"* government...

* THE NAME BAKUFU LITERALLY MEANS "THE TENT GOVERNMENT" AND REFERS TO THE CENTRE OF MILITARY POWER OF MINAMOTO NO YORITOMO, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF KAMAKURA FROM THE END OF THE 12TH CENTURY ONWARDS.

KAGE-KIYO!!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
THIS PAIN!!!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
BE SURE OF IT!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
ド
ド
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ド
ド
ド

GROA
AAA!
!!!

AZAMARU

Esthetique

SCANNED BY CINDY
TRANSLATED BY RAIWIN
PROOFREAD BY DRAGONFIREREALM
EDITED BY SHRREAL

AZAMARU

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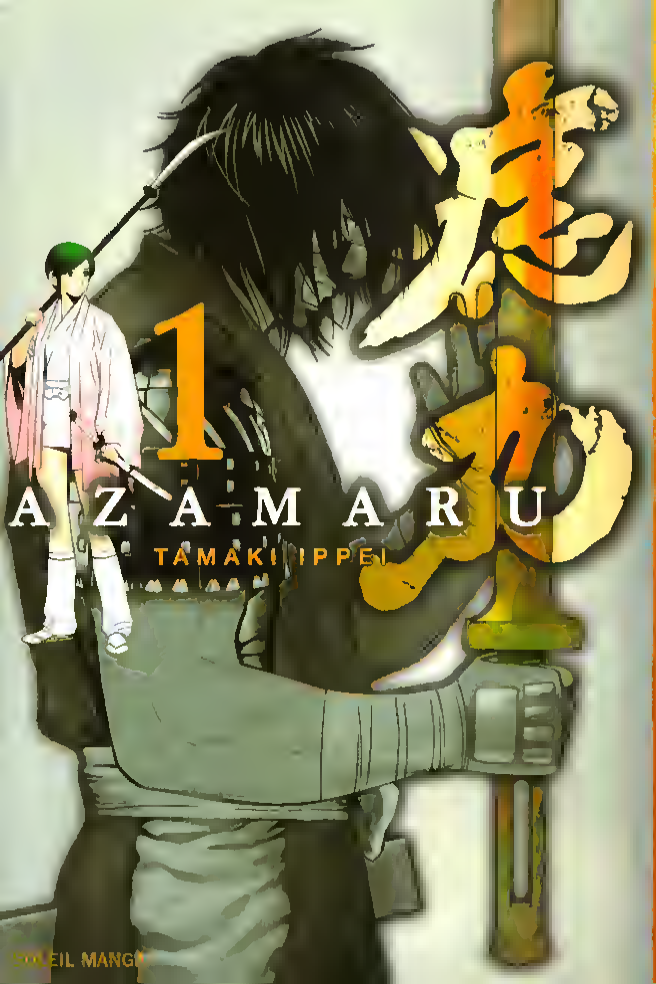
9 782849 463055

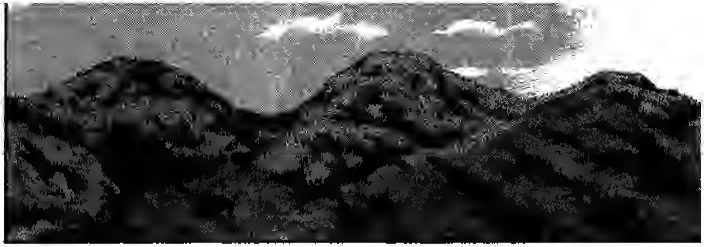


AZAMARU
TAMAKI IPPEI
SOLEIL MANGA

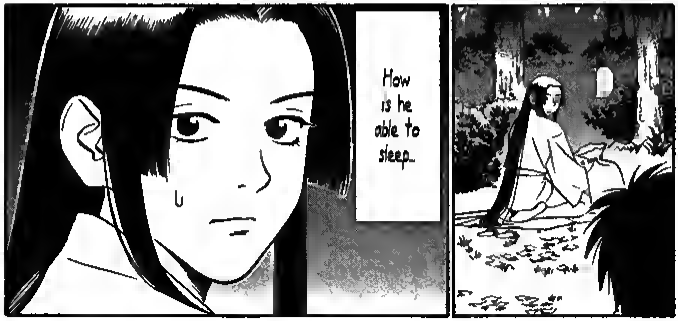
Chapter 2: Vengeance of the nameless man.

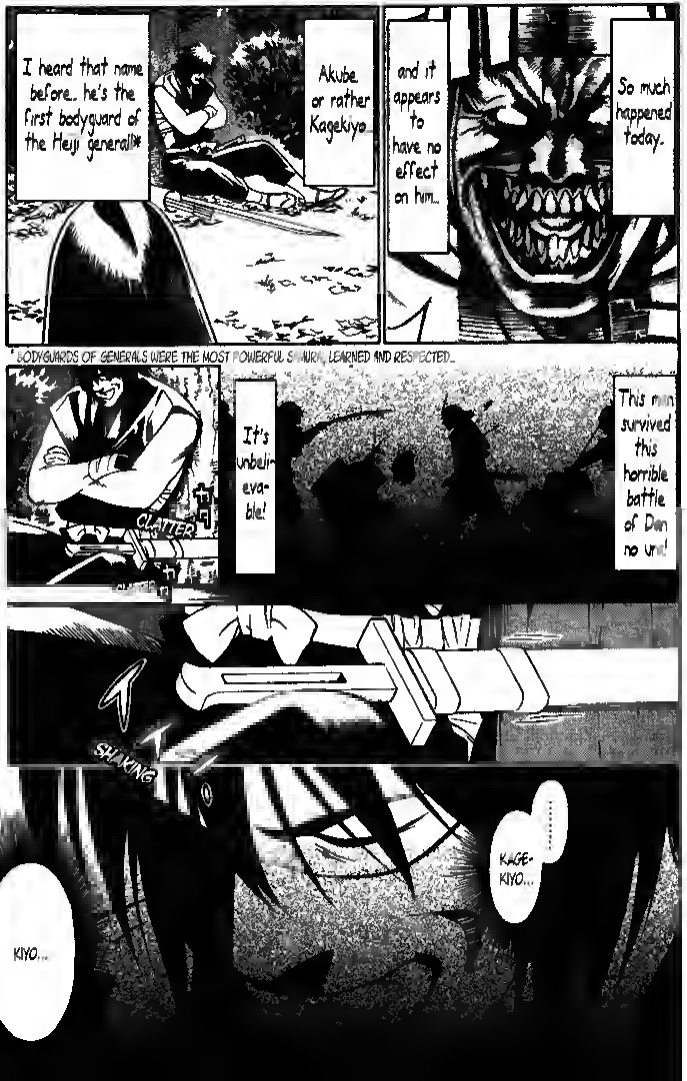
PFFFF !
WHACK
ド
TH

BANG
SFX: AGRESSIVELY YELLING
I WANT MORE BLOOD!
I NEED AN ARM...
BLOOD!
BLOOD!
SO I CAN KILL AND EAT YOU!
KAGEKIYOOOO!!!



Force


How is he able to sleep...


I heard that name before.. he's the first bodyguard of the Meiji general!*
Akube.. or rather Kagekiyo..
and it appears to have no effect on him..
So much happened today.
* BODYGUARDS OF GENERALS WERE THE MOST POWERFUL SAMURAI, LEARNED AND RESPECTED..
CLATTER
It's unbelievable!
This man survived this horrible battle of Dan no ura!
SHAKING
KAGE-KIYO...
KIYO...

I CAN'T SEE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU?
YES, BROTHER?
!
KAGEKIYO!
ON THE FLOOR...
I'M AT YOUR FEET, KAGEKIYO
....

!!
WE PREFER THROWING OURSELVES INTO THE WATER RATHER THAN BE CAPTURED BY THOSE BANDITS!*
THE DESCENDANT OF THE EMPE IS HERE! THE SWORD TOO!
BIG BROTHER!
FAREWELL!

*ACCORDING TO A LEGEND, DURING THE DAN NO URA BATTLE, THE NURSE OF THE HOLY EMPEROR'S SON CHOSE TO THROW HERSELF INTO THE WATER WITH THE BABY RATHER THAN TO GET CAPTURED.

WHAAAAA !!!!
WHAAAAA !!!
HA...
HA...
HA...
HA...

YES, EVERYTHING IS FINE.
ARE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
TELL ME, TOMOE.
YES?
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
YOU ARE GOING TO WAR AGAINST MINAMOTO NO YORITOMO, RIGHT?
SO...
WHAT?
WHY?
PFF!
スッ
ゴロン

I REALLY ADVISE YOU TO GO BACK!
THOSE GUYS ARE NOT HUMAN... THEY ARE THE REAL GENJI...
NEVERTHELESS YOU SAW THOSE FIGHTS YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY?
ムカ
NEVER CALL ME THAT, DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES, BUT KAGEKIYO!!
AKUBEEEEEEEE!
VERY WELL, AKUBE! MISTER AKUBE!
ARE YOU REALLY ANXIOUS FOR ME TO CALL YOU AKUBE?

IF YOU BELIEVE ME INCAPABLE OF DEFENDING MYSELF!
I THINK THAT YOU ARE MISTAKEN ON MY BEHALF
I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE PEOPLE GETTING IN MY WAY ! IT BOTHERS ME
ESPECIALLY WOMEN
I DON'T NEED YOUR PROTECTION!
NO.
#" rustling 7
#" rustling 7
#" rustling 7

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

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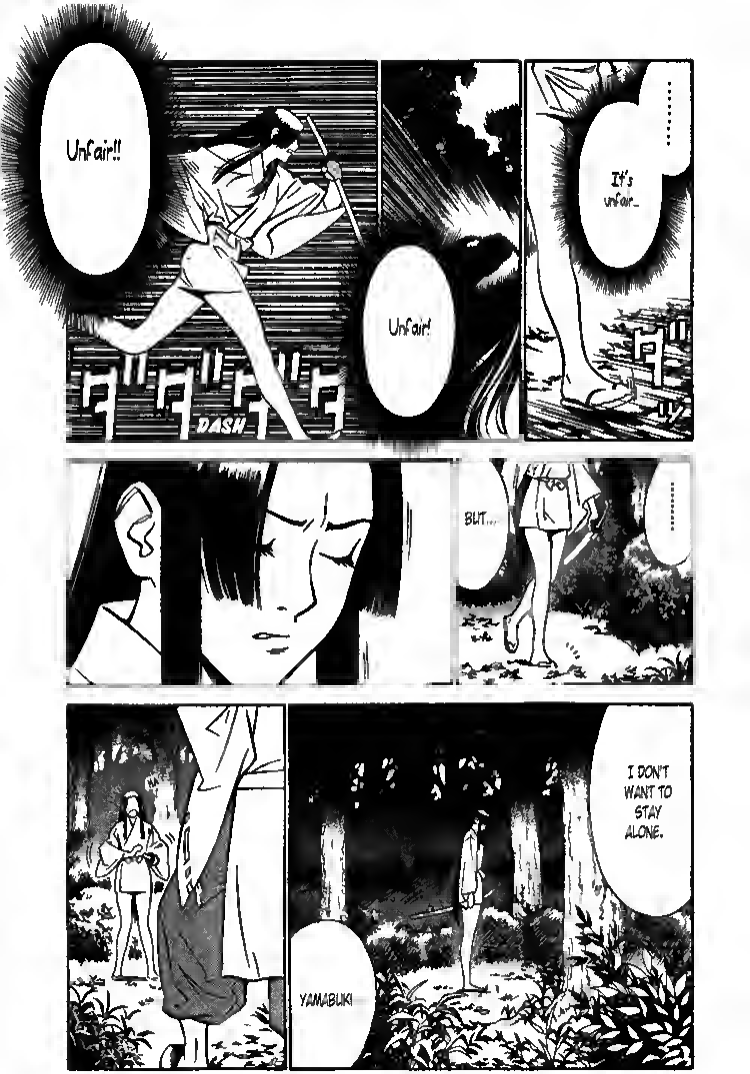
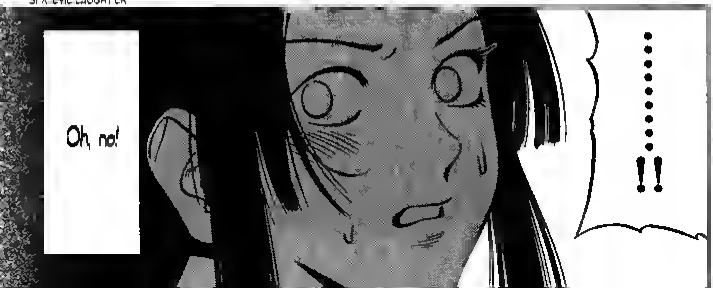

Unfair!!
DASH
Unfair!
It's unfair...
BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO STAY ALONE.
YAMABUKI

ha
ha
ha
……?
GULP
GULP

SFX: EVIL LAUGHTER



STEP
STEP
SFX: "OOOOO" WIND BLOWING
TIC
TIC
IT'S BEEN 2 YEARS SINCE I'VE SET FOOT THERE...
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE, I'LL REACH TAK. CHIHO...

CLATTER
CLATTER
TAP
WE FOUND HIM AGAIN!
WE... ...FOUND HIS TRACE AGAIN!
THE SWORD IS THERE!
SLIDE

ゾゾゾ
SFX: ZOSO - EERIE
WOOO^4
!

WOOOSH

SFX FAST MOVEMENTS

AAAAAH!

SLASH

GRAB
WHACK
SFX: OOOO
HEHEHE...
HEHEHE...
HEHEHE...

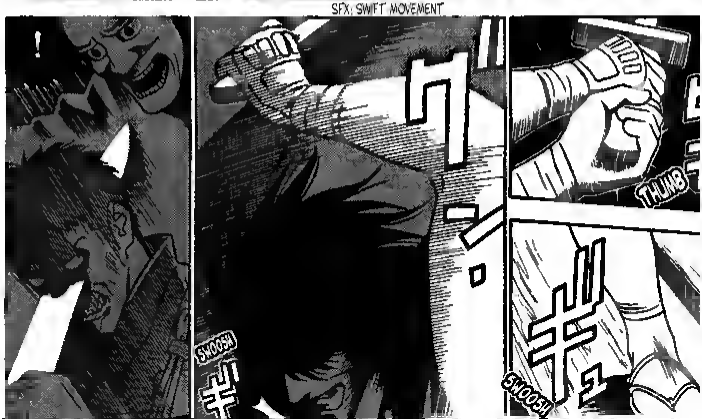
LET ME EAT HIM!
CLEAR OFF THE BRIDGE!
CRUNCH
KAGEKIYO!!!

SMACK
SMACK
SFX: [OBJIKI900] SOUND OF SCREAM

KAGERIYO...
HEHEHE...
HEHEHE...

SFX: GGGG (TOP TO BOTTOM)

SFX: SWIFT MOVEMENT



AARGH!!
BUMP
CLENCH
YAAAAAA!
YAAAAAA!

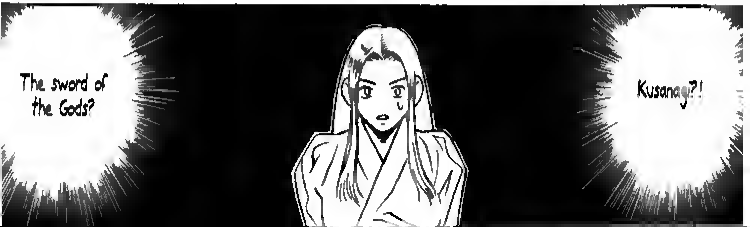
YOU YOU ARE NOT.
.. A NORMAL HUMAN!
A NORMAL HUMAN?
Ft
Tw
cha

.....
I THINK IT'S FUNNY.
GRIN
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
HAHAHA...
IT'S YOU WHO DARES ASKING THIS QUESTION? HAHAHA!
IF YOU KNEW HOW HAPPY I AM THAT SO MANY OF YOU CAME!
AZAMARU IS THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF NIGHTS I SPENT CURSING YOU!
AGH!

I'LL KILL YOU!
AS MANY TIMES AS NEEDED!
TOMOE. I THINK WE ALREADY MET IN YOSHINAKA'S COMPANY...
I BELONG TO THE MINAMOTO...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
WHO ARE YOU?
WE ALSO FOUND SOMETHING A BIT MORE UNEXPECTED...
WE ONLY CAME TO TRACK DOWN TOMOE, BUT...

MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE.
AND THE SWORD IN KAGEKIYO'S POSSESSION IS A DIVINE OBJECT THAT WE LOST DURING THE DAN NO URA BATTLE
オ オ オ
KUSANAGI*...
THE SACRED SWORD...
*THE SWORD KUSANAGI IS ONE OF THE THREE TREASURES WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, BELONGED TO THE FOUNDING GODS OF JAPAN. THESE THREE TREASURES ARE AT PRESENT "ENSHRINED" IN "THE ISE SANCTUARY". IT'S REAL NAME IS "KUSANAGI NO MITSURUGI"

SFX: OOO


The sword of the Gods?
Kusanagi?!

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AZAMARU

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Volume 01, Chapter 02

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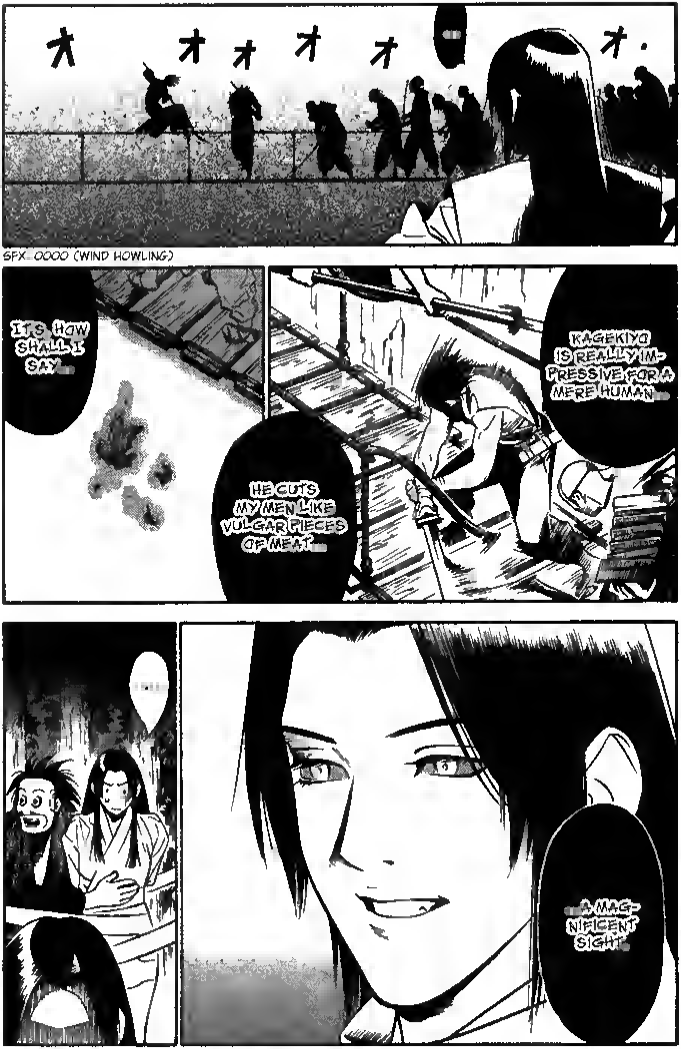
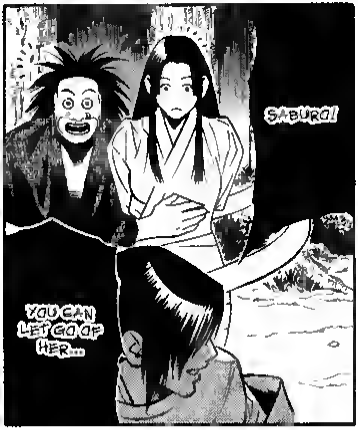
Chapter 3: Cruel Beauty


SFX: OOOO (WIND HOWLING)
IT'S HOW SHALL I SAY...
HE CUTS MY MEN LIKE VULGAR PIECES OF MEAT.
KAGEKIYO IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE FOR A MERE HUMAN...
...
...A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

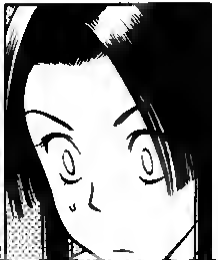
MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE?
THE LEADER OF THE PUNITIVE EXPEDITION AGAINST YOSHINAKA!
HO-
HOW CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE?
YOSHITSUNE AND MUSASHIBO ALIVE! BUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

TOMOE, COME AND ADMIRE THIS VIEW...
LOOK!


SABURO!
YOU CAN LET GO OF HER...

IT'S INCREDIBLE...

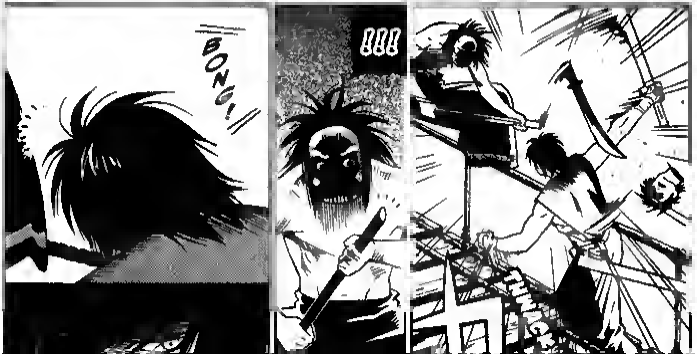
DOESN'T IT LOOK SUPERB?
THAT APPEARS...



*THE SHIRABYOSHI DANCE WAS ONCE VERY POPULAR AT THE END OF THE 12TH CENTURY. WOMEN DRESSED UP AS MEN MIMICKING SWORD FIGHTING

PAUSE
YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF YOSHINAKA!
.....
YOUR HAIR...
SPIN
THUMP
SNAP
CLENCH
I'LL TAKE SOME TO SHIZUKA, HE'LL BE PLEASED.
REAL WOMAN'S HAIR...
SHINY
IS MAGNIFICENT

SFX: FAST WALKING

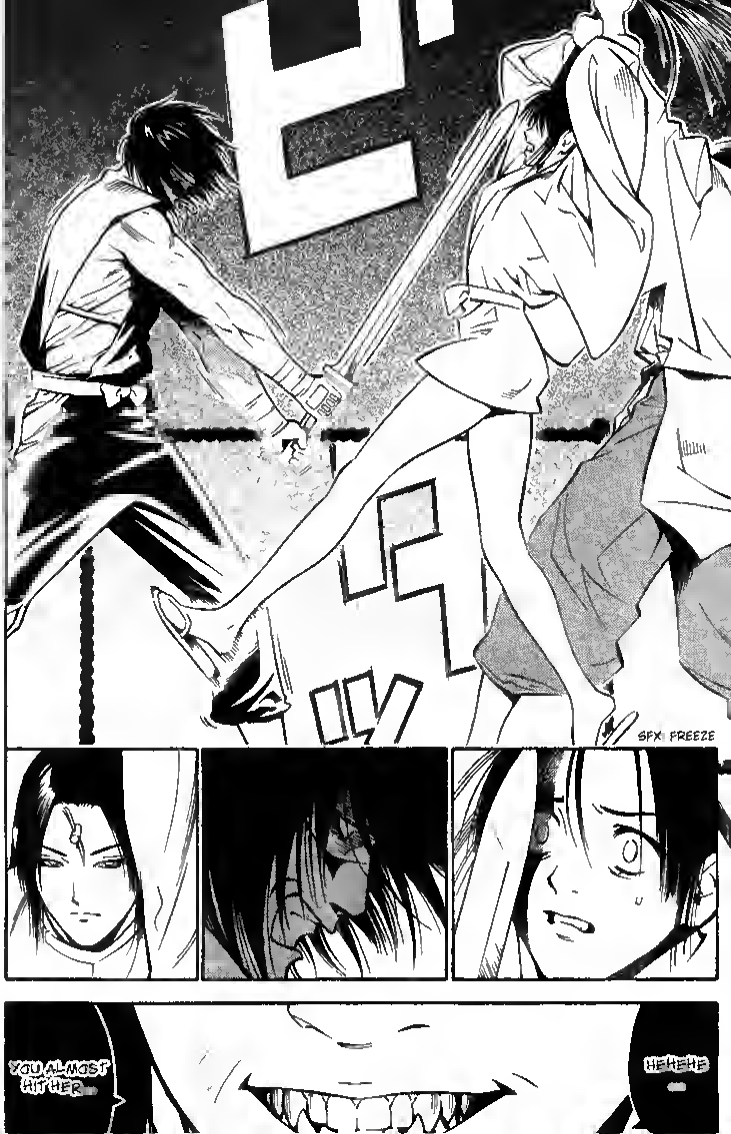


SFX: STRONG IMPACT
RHAA AA!
KAGEKI> YOOOO!

YOSHIT-SUNE!!!
HI?
THUMP
HAHA HA!
I SEE THAT YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO ANNIHILATED YOUR CLAN IN DAN NO URA!
IT'S A BIT NATURAL...
GRAB
SFX: TENSION
TENSES
THROWS

SFX CREAKS
THHHMACK

WHACK
YO-SHIT-SLINE!
DRIP
BAM
YAAAAAAA!
YAAAAAAAA!!!
SCREAM


SFX: FREEZE
YOU ALMOST HIT HER...
HEHEHE

I'M A HOSTAGE!
I HAVE BECOME A BURDEN.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE GOTTEN THINNER, KAGEKIYO. ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?
SLIP SLIP
SLIP SLIP
!
GUT
AHA!

I'M A WOMAN...
SNAP
AND ME BEING HERE ONLY IS A BOTHER...
ESPECIALLY WOMEN!
THIS IS TOO MUCH...
SFX: SEPARITES
WHY WAS I BORN A WOMAN?
YAMABUKI...
YOSHINAKA...

FALL
!!!
.....
YOU ARE DISAPPOINTING ME, TOMOE...
ギィ、
CRIK
ギィィ、
CRIK
...!!!
WHY?

POC!
STOMP
Haaa!
TOMOE!
BUT I KNOW A PERSON WHO WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED
IT WOULD MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR ME TO LET YOU FALL INTO THE ABYSS
JUST DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
GAAAAA
!
SWIP!

HAAAAAAAA!!!
SFX: TENSION
HA?!

SFX: FALLS APART
FALLING
AAH!

AHHH?!
HIIIIII
III!!!
SFX: SQUEEZE
FLOW!

KA...
KAGEKI-
YOOOO!
SFX: FLAPS

YOU ARE HUMAN!
TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIFE!!!
HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR NOW?

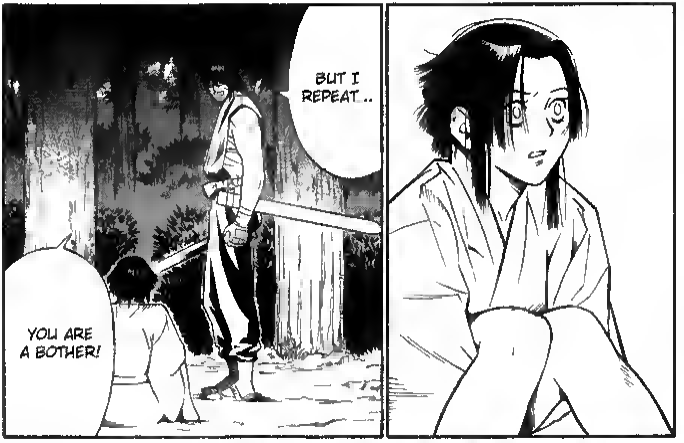
OH!
I'M FALLING!!
SFX: SCREAM

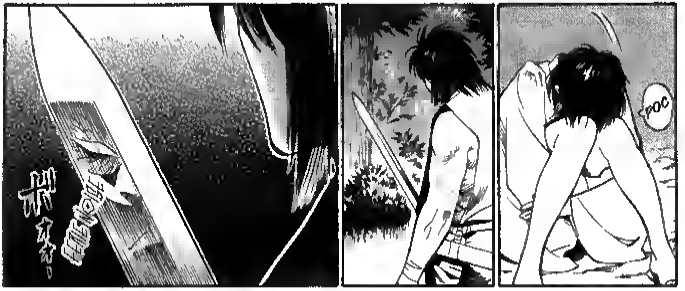
SFX: THWACK
KAGEKI
SFX: FALLING

MMH... NO...
SHALL WE FOLLOW THEM?

WE HAVE A MEMORY...
I DON'T LIKE IMPROVISED ATTACKS...
MORE-OVER...
STEP
GEHA-HAHA!
GEHA-HAHA!
GEHA-HAHA!
ARE YOU GOING TO STICK TO ME LIKE GLUE ANY LONGER?
I WON'T LET GO OF YOU EVER!
STEP
STEP

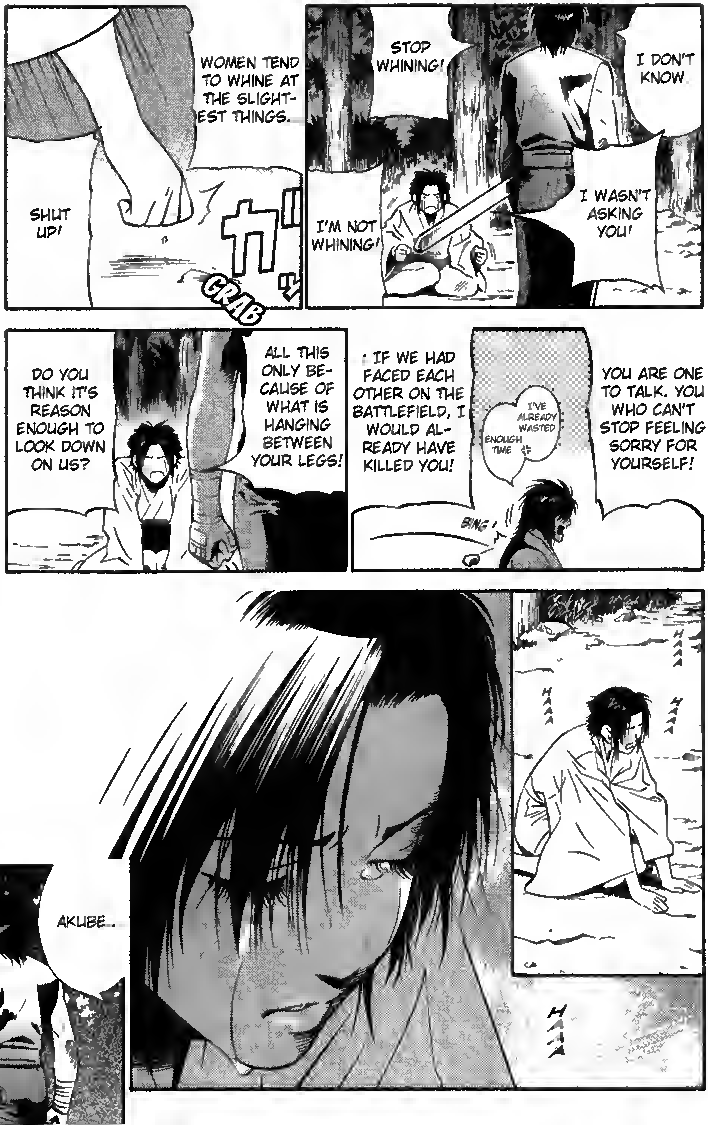
FROM NOW ON YOU'LL DO WHAT I SAY!
I ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO YOU...
SFX PUSH OFF


BUT I REPEAT..
YOU ARE A BOTHER!


POC

UNLIKE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE RISKS IN ORDER TO GET YOUR REVENGE
TOMOE, YOU ARE DELIGHT-FUL...
PFFF.
TI!
CLANG
SLAP
CAN YOU STAND UP?
FORGET BATTLE AND FIND A NICE HUSBAND
BUILD A PEACEFUL LIFE FOR YOUR-SELF
I'M..
A GIRL...
AND THAT'S ALL?

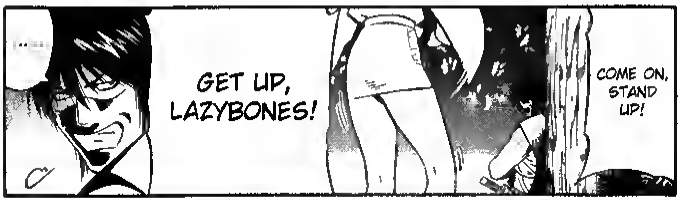
I WAS HELD HOSTAGE AND I WAS SAVED.
TREMBLE
I'M A FAILURE...
AND IT'S UNFAIR...
TREMBLE
AKUBE! I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH!
AND I KNOW HOW TO FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
SO WHY AM I...
.....
ALWAYS CONSIDERED A MERE GIRL...
WHY...
IT'S SO UNFAIR!

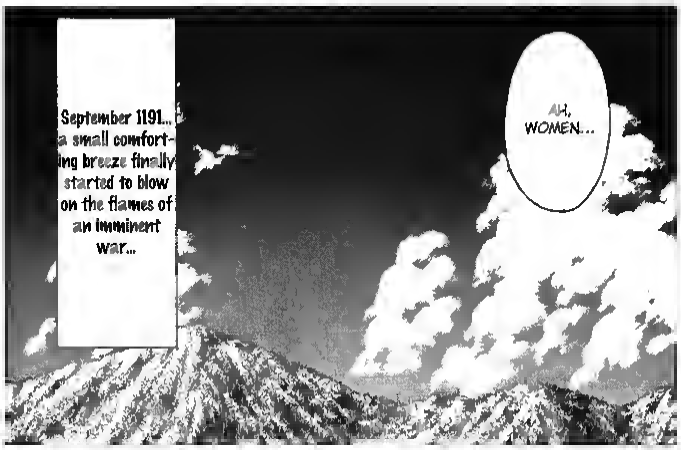

I DON'T KNOW.
STOP WHINING!
I WASN'T ASKING YOU!
I'M NOT WHINING!
WOMEN TEND TO WHINE AT THE SLIGHTEST THINGS.
SHUT UP!
CRAG
YOU ARE ONE TO TALK. YOU WHO CAN'T STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF!
IF WE HAD FACED EACH OTHER ON THE BATTLEFIELD, I WOULD ALREADY HAVE KILLED YOU!
I'VE ALREADY WASTED ENOUGH TIME
BING!
ALL THIS ONLY BECAUSE OF WHAT IS HANGING BETWEEN YOUR LEGS!
DO YOU THINK IT'S REASON ENOUGH TO LOOK DOWN ON US?
HAAA
HAAA
HAAA
AKUBE..

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING...
I WANTED TO SAY...
AKUBE, WAIT..
.....
BEFORE YOU LEAVE...
STEP
STEP
AH, WOMEN!
.....
PFFF
THUD
ドカッ
STEP

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU..
ぐっ
WAIT FOR THE DAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN..
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE READY TO ACCEPT DEATH, RIGHT? SO I WON'T OPPOSE IF YOU STAY WITH ME..
...
BUT I WON'T HELP YOU ANYMORE..
DOES..
DOES IT MEAN..

MAYBE THOSE MONSTERS ARE ALREADY ON OUR HEELS!
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO. WE WASTED ENOUGH TIME!
GETS UP
REALLY, AKUBE?!


GET UP, LAZYBONES!
COME ON, STAND UP!


September 1191... a small comforting breeze finally started to blow on the flames of an imminent war...
AH, WOMEN...

OH OH...

AZAMARU

by: Ippei Tamaki

Volume 01, Chapter 03

Credits:

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Proofreader:.....Dragonfirerealm

Editor:.....Surreal

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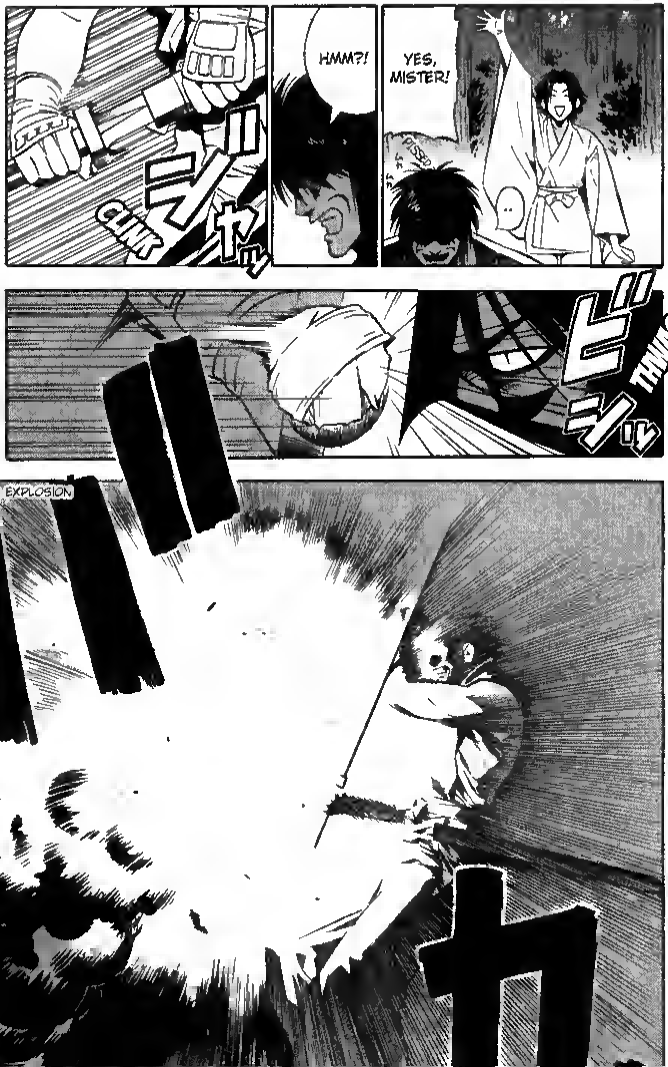
Chapter 4: The Gods descend upon Takachiho

I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING A TAG TEAM...
...SMASHER, LIKE THIS, THOSE MEN ARE UNBEATABLE
IT'S REPULSIVE...
WE'LL HAVE TO INCREASE OUR MANPOWER...
NOT SINCE BEFORE...
BUT IF HE'S IN THIS STATE...
GABUKO, DID YOU SEE HIM?
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MIKAGE?
TSUSSS

I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL...
I HAVE A TENDENCY TO FORGET TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...
I DOUBT THAT... HE WENT AFTER KAGEKIYO...
THAT BOY IS QUITE- BOTH... HE CERTAINLY IS HOT ON THEIR TRAIL...
MUSASHIBO...

DO YOU HEAR ME, DARLING!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AKUBE!
HEY, AKUBE!
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT WE ARE GOING TO FIND IN TAKACHIHO?
EXCITED
IS THERE A GATHERING OF MEN FROM THE HEIJI CLAN?
THUMP
YES..
GREAT!
BUT ONLY A SINGLE MAN...
.....
ONLY ONE? THAT MAKES..
THREE PEOPLE THEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE 250000 GENJI MEN?!?
I'M NOT A WOMAN! MY NAME IS TOMOE!
THEN SHUT UP, TOMOE!
YELL
GRRR
WILL YOU STOP TALKING, WOMAN!
THAT MAKES 83333 MEN FOR EACH OF US!!


CLINK
HMM?!
YES, MISTER!
THWACK
SFX: EXPLOSION

WOOSH
ARGH!
IENA GA...
UHHH!

AKUBE
LET ME ASK YOU FIRST IF YOU ARE DEAD...
...OR ALIVE?
.....

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THIS THING ON YOUR FACE IT WOULD BE EASIER!
HE LOOKS LIKE A MAN FROM THE MASKS CLAN
PFF ..
I'LL LET YOU GUESS
CLANG
WHO'S SHE?
MISS TOMOE ...
THE MASKS CLAN?
?
LOOKS
HMMM.
REALLY?
YOSHINAKA'S PROTEGE?!
!
WHAT ABOUT IT?

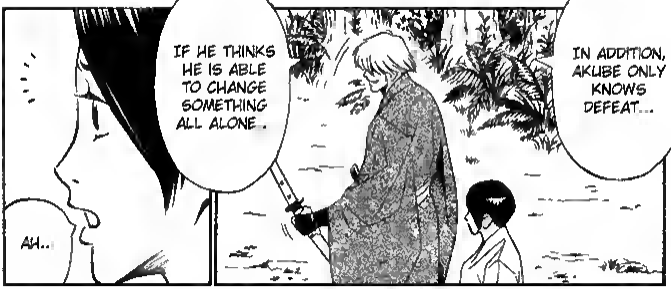
Hmm-
mmmm.
WH-
WHAT IS IT?
SHE'S NOT BAD.
ARE YOU FINISHED NOW OR WHAT?!

SFX: FLAKEY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BUT...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN HAIR IN SUCH A STATE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ERR...
HOW IS SHE WORTH NOTHING?
...YOU SHOULD BE MORE CARE-FUL! A WOMAN WHOSE HAIR IS A MESS IS WORTH NOTHING!
IT'S THE ARMY OF THE IMMORTALS FROM THE GENJI CLAN..
HAVE YOU EVER CROSSED THEIR PATH?
HATTORI IENAGA..
ME? I'M IENAGA...
THEY ARE WEARING A MASK TO HIDE THEIR FACES.
THEY ARE SOLDIERS WHO CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD..
YOU WERE MENTIONING THE MASKS CLAN BEFORE..

occured, Japanese people never heard about [illegible] the way of ninjutsu [illegible] in developping explosives based on saltpetre...

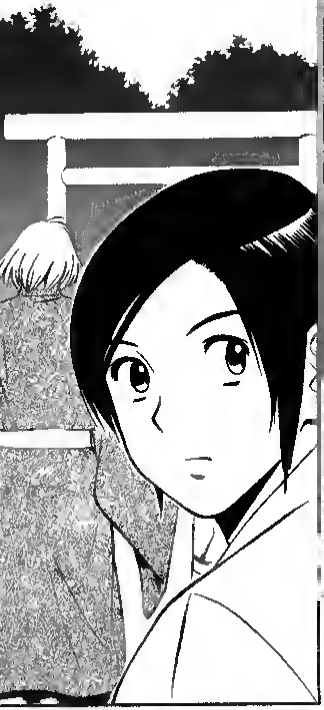
YOU ARE AWFULLY SKILLFUL!
I feel the wind on my neck!
It's the first time I have such short hair!
DOES IT SUIT ME?
IT MIGHT BE FASHION IN 800 YEARS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YES, YES! IT LOOKS VERY VERY NICE ON YOU!
REALLY?
AH!
I'LL ASK AKUBE'S OPINION!

AZAMARU...
THE HATRED, THE CURSE AND THE PAIN.
IT'S THE NAME OF THIS SWORD THE ONLY THING IN THIS WORLD WHICH KNOWS MY TRUE FACE... MY UGLINESS REFLECTED ON THIS BLADE HELPS ME NEVER TO FORGET...
I WAS JUST RECRUITED...
HIS BIRTH IN MIDST THE HEIJI CLAN MARKED HIS FATE...
THIS IS WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM... HE ONLY EXPERIENCED WAR...
IN THE PAST,
HE WAS SO FIERY.
HMM?


IF HE THINKS HE IS ABLE TO CHANGE SOMETHING ALL ALONE.
IN ADDITION, AKUBE ONLY KNOWS DEFEAT...
AH...

YOU SEE...
HIS QUEST IS ALSO SURELY DOOMED TO FAILURE...

SHALL WE GO MY LITTLE TOMOE?
?
BUT WHERE?
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
AKUBEI!
LET'S GO!
ON THE TAKACHI-HO RIDGE!
THE KIRISHIMA SANCTU-ARY IS THERE.



The Kirishima Sanctuary was built on the place where Ninigi the son of the principal Japanese deity, Amaterasu, is said to have descended in former times in order to found the lineage of the imperial family...

It's one of the sacred places having known "the descend of a God".

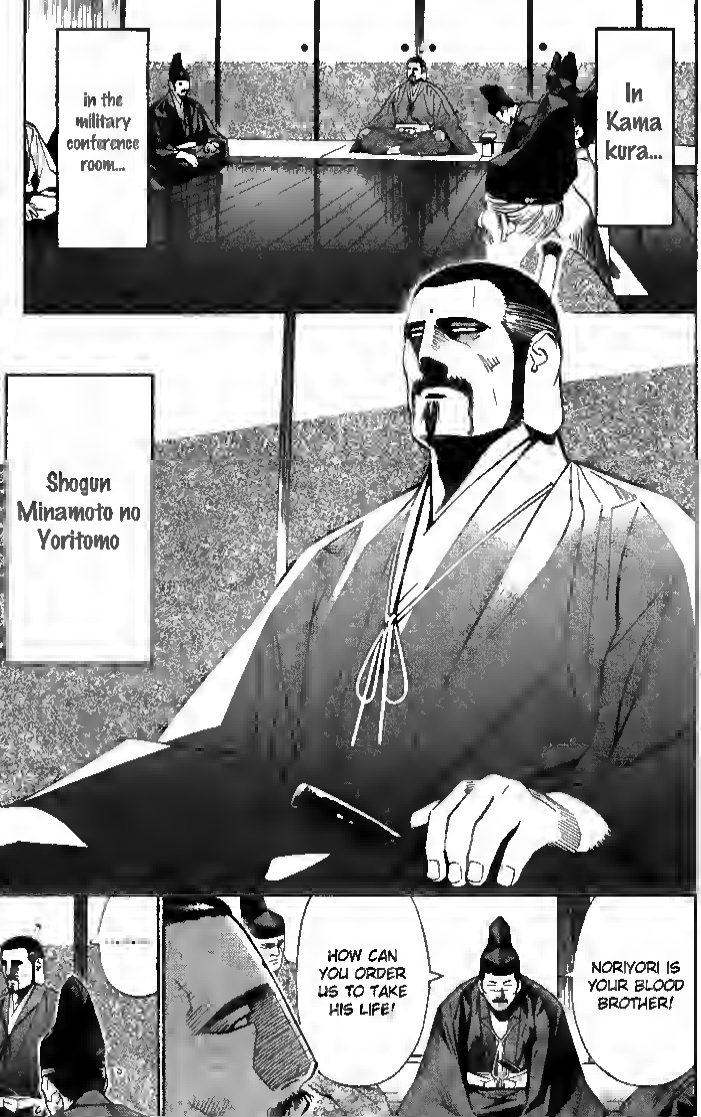
!!!
RISES.
MEAT!
MEAT!
BLOOD!
BLOOD!
CREEPY
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!!
WE'RE GOING TO DEVOUR YOU!
THROWS

KICK THE BUCKET!!!
BOOM
SFX GROAN
THUD

MEAT!
WE... ATE HUNGRY....
BL- BLOOD!!!!
SMACK
I'M SUFFERING!
THWACK
AAAGHH!
WHAAA!
DIE...

AS MANY TIMES AS NEEDED!
SLASH!
BOOM!
FLAP

FLOMP
CAW!
IF YOU'D LET ME...
I, HATAKEYAMA SHIGETADA, CAN'T AGREE WITH YOUR DECISION.
GIVE YOU MY HUMBLE OPINION.


In Kamakura...
in the military conference room...
Shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo
NORIYORI IS YOUR BLOOD BROTHER!
HOW CAN YOU ORDER US TO TAKE HIS LIFE!

THE HEIJI CLAN WAS EXTERMINATED THERE IS NO ONE LEFT THAT IS ABLE TO SEIZE THE MILITARY POWER IN THIS COUNTRY! EXCEPT MAYBE YOSHITSUNE—
Wada Yoshimori
EVEN IF YOU FEEL SUSPICIOUS OF YOUR BROTHER, I THINK DEATH IS TOO HARSH A PUNISHMENT!
Adachi Morinaga
YOU'LL FOREVER LOSE A BROTHER WHO IS PERHAPS NOT GUILTY!
!!
キロ
STARE
SHIGETADA...
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK—
...
Kajiwara Kagetoki
I POINT OUT THAT IT'S ABOUT HIS BROTHER AND SURELY OUR SHOGUN SUFFERS THE MOST FOR HAVING TO MAKE THIS DECISION—

YOU'D BETTER NOT LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT EVEN FOR ONE MINUTE...
A-ALL RIGHT
SHIGETADA, I ENTRUST THIS TASK TO YOU...
YES, BUT...
THEY'RE REALLY UN-HEALTHY.
...
THEY ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE SHOGUN LATELY..
THE MASKS CLAN...

OH..
HE FOUND THE SWORD KUSANAGI AGAIN...
HE AND TWO OF HIS COMPANIONS ARE BATTLING OUR MEN AT THE ATSUTAMA SANCTUARY...
KAMEJIRO'S HAS REALLY BEEN IN HIS POSSESSION.
THEY HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GOD NINIGI AND TO RECONQUER JAPAN..
SO AKUBE AND KUSANAGI WENT DOWN TO TAKACHIHO...
HMM.

...HAS THE FAVOUR AND THE PROTECTION OF THE GODDESS AMATERASU.
IT LOOKS LIKE AKUBE...
YOU'D ALMOST THINK WE ARE PRESENT AT THE...
..DESCENSION OF A GOD TO EARTH

BANG

AS MUCH AS NEEDED!

SLASH
ATTACK
THAT'S INCREDIBLE
YOU'D THINK THE ENEMIES ARE MONSTERS
WHAT SUPERNATURAL FORCE!
GRAB

AZAMARU

by: Ippei Tamaki

Volume 01, Chapter 04

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SFX Translator:.....Littlepinkrose12

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Editor:.....Surreal

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AKUBE!!!
WHO AMONG THOSE SOLDIERS IS THE MOST MONSTER LIKE?!
.....
AH
THUMP
Chapter 5: The Divine Sword

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
BOOM
!!!
EXCEPT IF YOU WANT TO DIE!
IT'S NOT THE TIME TO BE MILES AWAY!
GROOAA!
IN FRONT OF YOU! WATCH OUT!!
YOUR REPUTATION IS THAT OF A GREAT WARRIOR SO SHOW US THAT YOU HAVE IT IN YOU!
USE THIS!
SLINK
WHAA!

!?
PUSH
SHOVE
カッ
カッ
カッ
SFX BOOM

ME TOO!
I CAN DO IT!
SWISH
BUT I'M NOT LEFT OUT EITHER! I'M FAR FROM BEING RIDICULOUS!
INCREDIBLE
SHE THINKS SHE IS ON STAGE OR WHAT?!
EN GARDE!
I'M TOMOE I FOUGHT BY THE SIDE OF SHOGUN YOSHINAKA!
READY
CIRCLES
PFUIT!
?
BLOOD?
WHACK

むあー
GRUNT
HA!
EN GARDE!
MY BROTHER AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE THE KOKUMAGA SWORD BACK FROM YOU!
AND I'M KAMATA MITSUHARA FROM YOSHITSUNE'S ARMY!
ME TOO!

GRRR
.....!
DID YOU SEE? TWO SHARING THE SAME BODY!
I WONDER HOW ONE OF THEM ENTERED THE OTHER'S BODY...
...
PFF!
THEIR UGLINESS SUITS ME PERFECTLY...
LOOK CLOSELY, TOMOE!
JUST..
...THE FIGHT OF UGLINESS
IT'S NOT A WAR ANYMORE...
HEHE

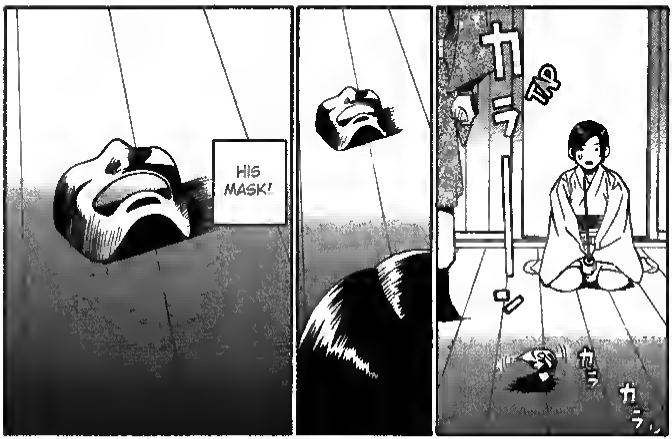
ズ
STAB
グッ
SFX. BAM

SCREAM
ア
ア
ア
ア
ア
?
?
SPIT
ZHWACK
SPIT
BANG
CLASH

SFX: SLASH
MY ARTTTTM!!!
AAAAAGH!!!

SWISH
カッ
AKUBE IS MOVING IN SUCH A WAY THE MONSTER CAN ONLY SPIT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION..
ON THE CONTRARY, WE'D BETTER STAY WHERE WE ARE...
WHAT?
THIS MONSTER IS DOING THE WORK IN OUR PLACE--!
HE'S EXPLODING HIS COMRADES!!
SWISH

PFFT
SLURPS
OH?
LIAR!
I MUST GO BEHIND HIM.
TO HELL WITH IT!
AH!
AKUBE!
CLUNK
!!!


HIS MASK!
カラ
カラ
カラ

OOOO
オ
オ
オ
オ
AKUBE'S MASK...
HAS FALLEN DOWN!
SLIP
オ
オ
AH
HE HIDES HIS SCARS...
I INFLICTED THOSE BURNS MYSELF.
AKUBE CERTAINLY DESIRED TO ESCAPE FROM THE GENJI MEN...
FOR THIS REASON HE THREW AWAY HIS WEAPONS HIS NAME AND EVEN HIS FACE...
ABUMARU!

...THE HATE, THE CURSE AND THE PAIN.
IT'S THIS SWORD'S NAME... THE ONLY THING IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS MY TRUE FACE... MY UGLINESS REFLECTED ON ITS BLADE ALLOWS ME NEVER TO FORGET...
ゴォ.
UGLINESS? SCARS?
SFX. FIERCE STARE

BUT... HE HAS NONE...
HE HAS NO SCARS!

ON THE CONTRARY...
ぎゃあ
SFX: ARGGHH!
ド
WHACK
カッ
DON'T TELL HIM!
EH?
...

I DIDN'T THINK HIS BURNS WOULD HEAL SO FAST...
WOULD HEAL?
!
AKUBE REALLY DISFIGURED HIMSELF IN THE PAST...
BUT THAT HAPPENED SEVERAL YEARS AGO...
オ-
YES..
THEY HAVE TOTALLY DISPAPPEARED

AAAA
ア
BUT THE MOST INCREDIBLE THING IS THAT HE STILL SEES THOSE SCARS!
BUT ..
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
YES.
HOW...
IT'S THAT VISION WHICH FILLS HIM WITH THIS RAGE...
グギギ
GRUNT
THAT'S WHY HE SHOULDN'T BE TOLD ANYTHING ABOUT HIS WOUNDS
HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. .
HA ...
SMILE
CLENCH
グッ
グッ
ME...
ME GOT YOU!!!!
ガッ

WHAT? HIS SWORD?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S HIS EYES WHICH ARE DELUDING HIM...
OR AZAMARU'S REFLECTION TRYING TO DECEIVE HIM..
DO YOU THINK YOU CAUGHT ME?
IT'S NOT A SIMPLE SWORD?
AZAMARU.. OR RATHER KUSANAGI..
SHUDDER
A SIMPLE SWORD?
SLASH!!

DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE A SWORD ISN'T USED UP AFTER SO MANY FIGHTS?
AFTER HAVING CUT SO MUCH?
11° HOURS
7 TURNS
BESIDES, WHY DO THESE SUPPOSINGLY IMMORTAL MONSTERS FEEL SUCH PAIN WHEN THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH HIS BLADE?
きゃあああ
THIS SWORD IS NOT OF OUR WORLD ..
オオオオ
IT'S THE BLADE OF THE GODS! OR RATHER..
SFX: AGGGHHHH!!!!
SFX: FEROCIOUS

THIS WEAPON...
MAY BE A GOD ITSELF.
SFX. SLASH

I don't understand
A GOD IN THIS SWORD?!
A GOD?
ONE DAY AZAMA-RU-
BAM
!!!
WILL BE MI-
...!
ARGH!
GRAB

KAGEKIYO!
SFX: SMASH
KAGEKIYO!

MU-
MUSA SHIBO!?
ARGH!
SMACK
AAAARGH!
AAAARGH!!!
WHACK
AAAAAH!
BASH
AAA AAH!
WHACK

.....!
ポ
ギ
WISH
SWIP
ハ
IENAGA!
ゴ
IENA~
GRIP
ヘ
キ
メキィ
ド
THRST
ゴ
ゴ
SFX: THROWS

SFX: SLAM
.....!
FLOAT
ROLLS

KAGEKI-
YOOO!
PFFF.
HOW UGLY YOU ARE!

MAYBE AS UGLY AS I AM...

AZAMARU

by: Ippei Tamaki

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Chapter 6: Unsightly Outcome

MUSA SHIBO .
HE FOL-LOWED US!
!
I'M GOOD FOR NOTH-ING..
IT'S TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME .
I'M IN THEIR WAY QUICK..
QUICK

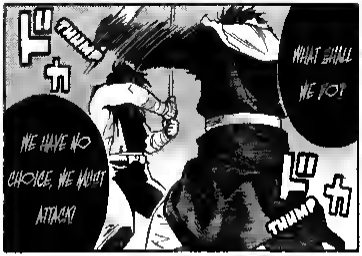
I HAVE TO FLEE!
BRAVO, MUSASHIBO...
YOU WERE VERY FAST TO TRACK US

!
ダッ
DASH
ドム
ドム
THUD

AAAAAAAAAGH!!
THAAAA!
WHAAAA!
SLAM!
バッ
バキッ
カッ
SFX: SMACK
WHOAH!!
ドカ

KAG EKI- YOO OO!
STAGE
GRO OAA AAA A!!!
ANGRY
I HAVE SEV- ERAL RIBS BROKEN...
YAAA!

SWISH
SLASH
SMACK


ZAHAH
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, WE MUST ATTACK!
ZAHAH
ONLY WE ARE LEFT!
YES.
CHUCHA
KA
KA

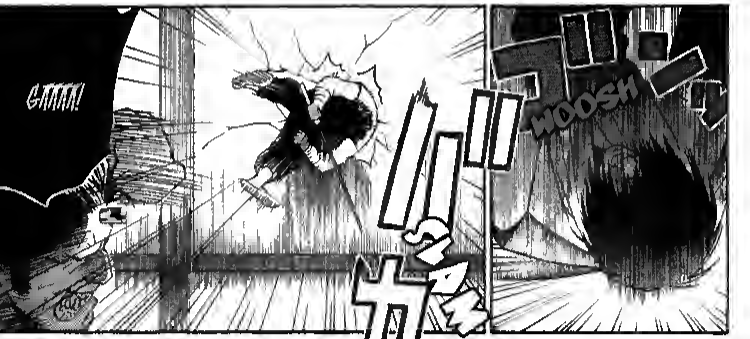
DIE!!!
RUSH
KAGEKI-YOOO!

MOVE IT, KITTO !!!
CIRCLES
SNAP

AHH!!
SFX WHAM
SLUSH
!

SFX: SMACK

SFX: TENSION



HUUU
RATUS

GET UP, WEED!!!
KAGEKI-
YOOOO!
UNITCH

HAA...
HAA...
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
YOU OAF.
HAA...
むくり
TREMBLE

PFUU.
I TOLD YOU AL-READY,
NOT TO CALL ME THAT

KA GEKI YO!
SFX: WHOOSH
YAAAAA!

CREAK
GRAB
I'VE GOT YOU!!
SQUEEZE
CRACK

STAB
THWACK

NO..
NO!
NO!
SPLSH
STAB
I WON'T LET YOU KILL AKUBE!
I WON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN!
STAB
OUCH!
SLAM
GET OFF!
THWACK

KA-
THWACK
POC!
GUUUU!

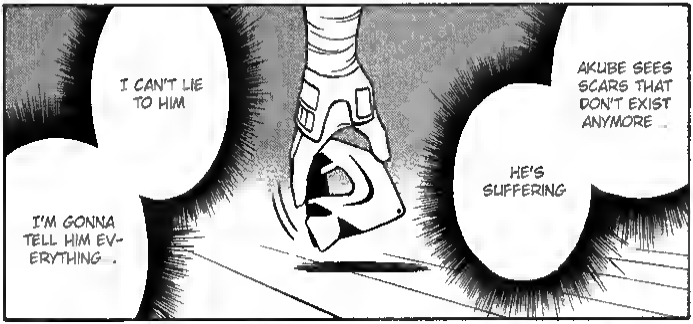
CLINK
SFX: HUGE EXPLOSION

KNEE
FALL
DON'T THINK YOU'LL DIE WHILE STANDING...

FLOMP

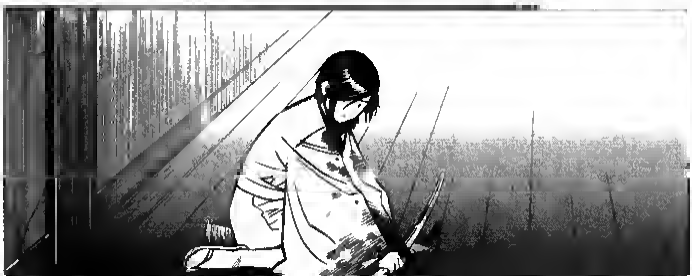
...
AAAH
...
AAAH
...
AAAH
...
AAAH
ドドド

DON'T LOOK AT ME!
STEP
!
AH ..
HIS SCARS


I CAN'T LIE TO HIM
I'M GONNA TELL HIM EV-ERYTHING .
AKUBE SEES SCARS THAT DON'T EXIST ANYMORE ..
HE'S SUFFERING

THANK YOU...
YOU WERE A GREAT HELP.

TOMOE.
WH-WHAT?



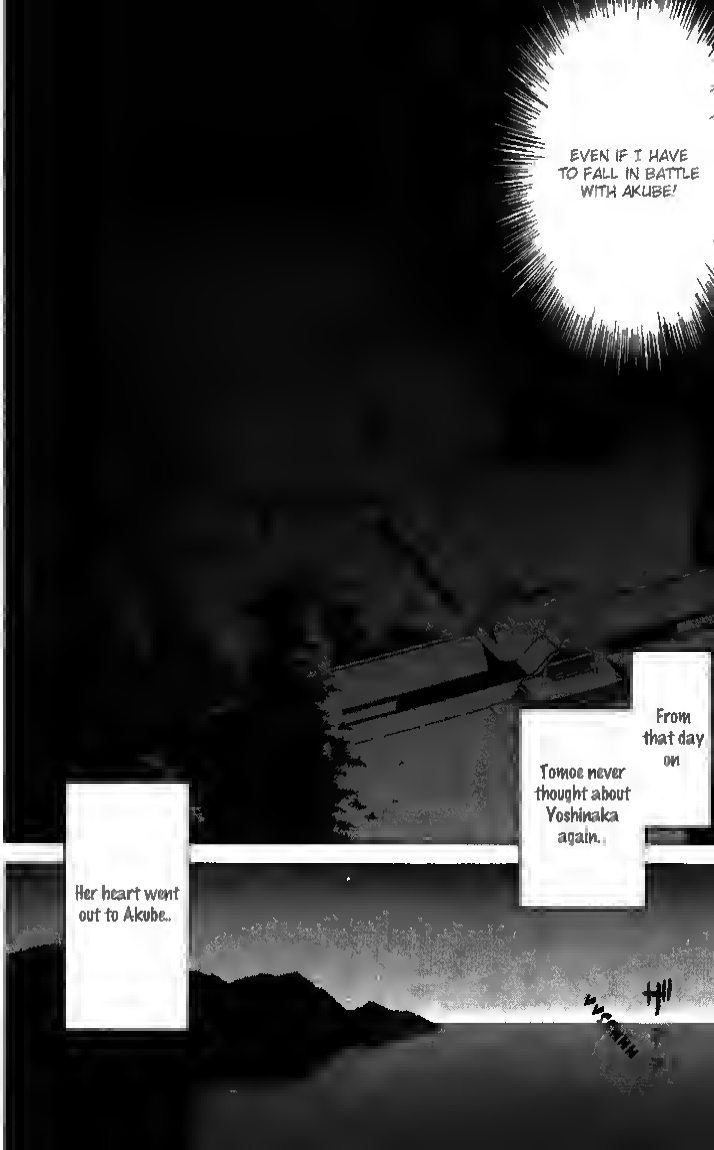
.....
SNIFF
WHY ARE YOU SNIV-ELING?
I'M NOT SNIVEL-ING!
DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO HIM!
ABOUT WHAT?!

HEH. DON'T BURY ME SO FAST!
A living dead?
BUT YOU WERE DEAD A FEW MINUTES AGO!
THERE IS NO POINT IN FULLING SUCH A FACE!
CRACK
He played dead?
IT'S AWFULLY HANDY..
DON'T REVEAL ANYTHING TO AKUBE..
WALK
I OFTEN MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT I'M INJURED..
SNAP
MY JOINTS EASILY BECOME DISLO-CATED..
AND A WEAK AKUBE..
DOESN'T HOLD MY INTEREST..
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE GENJI ANYMORE THEN..
IF HE WERE TO KNOW THE TRUTH, HIS RAGE WOULD DECREASE..

WHO IS THIS MAN REALLY?
AKUBE!!
SO THAT'S WHY.
HE WISHES FOR AKUBE TO BE STRONG!
HE IS USING HIM!
THIS BAS-TARD!
HE USES AKUBE ONLY TO MAKE THE GENJI GO DOWN ON THEIR KNEES
HE'S LYING TO HIM AND USING HIM TO DESTROY THE GENJI CLAN!
?
WHAT IS IT?
Are you finished crying?

NO. EVERY-
THING IS FINE!
AND ME TOO..

WITH THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THAT IN ORDER...
TO SUCCEED I'M GOING TO FIGHT BY HIS SIDE FROM NOW ON!


EVEN IF I HAVE TO FALL IN BATTLE WITH AKUBE!
From that day on
Tomoe never thought about Yoshinaka again.
Her heart went out to Akube..
HUSHIN

SPLASH!!
WSSSHHH
AH?
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP

YAMABUKI
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?
HAHAHAHA!

THIS WORLD, YOU AND TOMOE...
I WISH FOR EVERYTHING TO STAY AS IT IS.
I DID UNDERSTAND IT WHILE DYING I'M FREE
TWITCH
NO.
I HAVE NO REGRETS TO HAVE LEFT THE WORLD OF THE LIVING...
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF FORGIVING YOUR HAND
SLIDES
WAIT!
GETS UP
I SEE...
I UNDER-STAND VERY WELL
MASTER YOSHINAKA?
PLEASE! ONE LAST TIME! WOULD YOU CONDESCEND TO SHOW ME YOUR FACE?

YAMAZUMI MEET ME VERY SOON IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD
THERE I'LL GO ACCOMPANIED BY TOMOE...

End of the first volume of Azamaru.

To be continued in Volume 2...

AZAMARU

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Volume 01, Chapter 06

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